United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property
historic name Carrollton Community House
other names/site number
Name of Multiple Property Listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
2. Location
street & number 305 Lexington Street in Carrollton not for publication
city or town Carrollton
state Mississippi county Carroll zip code 38917
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated outbority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as emended
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide _X local
Applicable National Register Criteria: <u>X</u> A <u>B</u> <u>X</u> C <u>D</u> <u>A - 3 - 19</u> Signature of eertifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Mississippi Department of Archives and History State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official Date
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
other (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Carrollton Community House

public - Federal

Name of Property

OMB No. 1024-0018

Carroll County, Mississippi

County and State

5. Classification

Category of Property Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.) (Check only one box.) X building(s) private Х public - Local district public - State site

> structure object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	_
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
Community House/ Meeting Hall	Community House/ Meeting Hall
Recreational Center	
Library	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification	Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
Late 19th & Early 20th Century Movements - Rustic	foundation: brick piers and concrete footings
	walls: Wood Log 'round'
	roof: Asphalt shingles
	other: Stone Chimney

Carrollton Community House

Name of Property

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Carrollton Community House at 305 Lexington Street in Carrollton, Carroll County, Mississippi, is a log structure built through the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, between 1935 and 1936.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The Carrollton Community House was designed and built by the Works Progress Administration between 1935 and 1936. The structure is positioned parallel approximately one hundred feet from the street. A concrete sidewalk leads from the town sidewalk to concrete steps to the entrance porch. The building is well landscaped and is framed by large established oak trees. There are no extraneous, noncontributing outbuildings or structures located on the site.

The Carrollton Community House is a Rustic style, one-story structure of stacked and peeled round short leafed pine logs, rectangular, simple in plan structure with massive stacked stone exterior chimneys at each end. The front elevation faces east. The exterior walls are constructed of stacked peeled pine logs, saddled notched at the corners with the ends exposed. The chinking between the logs is cement.

The roof is hipped on the ends and shingled with asphalt composition shingles. The east facing elevation has a centered entrance porch protected by a sloped, hipped roof and resting on round wood posts. The entrance is recessed from the main walls. Attached on the north end is a meeting room similar construction and details with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The west facing elevation (back) has the original projecting kitchen and bath rooms of similar construction and details with a stoop and wooden steps to grade. The entire structure is supported on brick piers and concrete footings. The windows are six over six double hung wooden sash windows. The entrance has the original double wooden doors with original hardware.

The interior treatment is also Rustic in style, with the exterior peeled pine logs serving as the interior walls. The double entrance doors open into the center of a large vaulted open room (the ball room) dominated by the massive stacked stone fireplace on the south wall. The fireplace retains its original mantel of half of a vertically split peeled pine pole. The vaulted pine planked ceiling is supported by three main exposed peeled pine pole trusses, equally spaced and spanning the width of the room. Each hipped end of the vaulted ceiling is supported by three half trusses tied into a main truss. There are six original wooden oxbow light fixtures hanging from the main trusses, two per truss. The wide plank pine flooring is original. At the north end of the ball room are two original pine plank doors. Originally these doors opened into storage rooms that also opened into the meeting room. This room is similar to the ball room but is not vaulted. The ball room has a stacked stone fireplace on the north wall. In 2002, the west storage room was converted to a handicap accessible bathroom to meet ADA requirements. Both the storage room and the are accessible from the ball room and the meeting room. At the southeast corner of the main room is an original pine plank door opening into the kitchen. The kitchen construction is similar and has some original pine plank upper kitchen

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oodr	nan, Thomas E.	
Stater	nent of Significance	
pplic 1ark "x'	able National Register Criteria ' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our	Politics and Government, WPA
	history.	Architecture, rustic log construction
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents	Period of Significance
	the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity	1935-1941
	whose components lack individual distinction.	
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information	
	important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
		1935-1936
	a Considerations ' in all the boxes that apply.)	
roper	ty is:	Significant Person
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
в	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)
с	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	
1	less than 50 years old or achieving significance	

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cabinets. Near the center of the main room, on the west wall, is an original door opening to a corridor that leads to the restrooms. The restrooms have been altered and modernized. The restrooms and kitchen do not have vaulted ceilings.

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Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Carrollton Community House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of Politics and Government for its association with President Roosevelt's Works Project Administration. The Carrollton Community House is also eligible on the local level under Criterion C as a good example of rustic log construction which was common during the WPA era construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Bisected by Highways 82, 17, and 35, Carroll County lies 130 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee, 95 miles north of Jackson, Mississippi, 71 miles east of Greenville, Mississippi and 70 miles west of Starkville, Mississippi. Established by the Legislature in 1833 from the land ceded by the Choctaw Indians under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830, it was named for Charles Carroll, one of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Because of its original size of 908 square miles, Carroll County had two county seats, Carrollton and Vaiden. In 1870, large portions of Carroll County were used to form three other counties – Leflore, Grenada, and Montgomery – reducing the county to its present size of 615 square miles.¹

The National Register of Historic Places lists thirteen sites in Carroll County, including the Carrollton Historic District – which is comprised of 550 acres and 58 buildings. Carrollton was laid out on a forty-acre site on the south side of Big Sand Creek when it was established in 1834 as one of the two county seats of Carroll County. During the antebellum period the small community grew as the mercantile and governmental center for the surrounding agricultural region. Carrollton could have dwindled away when the railroad was built on the north of Big Sand Creek in 1894 or in 1931 when the route for Highway 82 by passed the town to the south.² Today, Carrollton is working to preserve its 19th century architectural charm as a courthouse square surrounded by commercial structures.³

The Carrollton Community House was constructed in 1935-1936 of native short leaf pine logs, according to Jim Strong of the Mississippi Forestry Commission, under the supervision of Davis Felts, a Carrollton builder and contractor. It was built as a civic facility under the Works Progress Administration. Like many other community centers built during this period, the meeting room housed the first public library. While local records do not specifically identify the funding for the project, it is locally held that federal funds were used and the local governments, county and municipal, provided the materials and labor. Originally, a Community House Association was designated by the local government bodies to oversee the use and maintenance of the facility. In recent years the Association dissolved, and the day-to-day operations have been turned over to the Carrollton Town Board.

The Community House continues to be jointly funded by the County Board of Supervisors and the Carrollton Board of Aldermen. In 2000, the Community House was designated a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Under this designation, permits

¹ CarrolltonMs.net Homepage

² "Southern Railway Company in Mississippi," <u>https://msrailroads.come/SRM.htm</u>. "U. S. Route 82, "<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S. Route 82</u>

³ Walt Grayson, "Mississippi Seen," *Today in Mississippi*, September 2017.

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were granted in 2002 and 2004 to repair the building's structural elements, add a central heating and air system, to install handicap ramp and bathroom and install new landscape elements. These improvements were made possible by grants from the USDA Forestry Service and USDA Rural Development. The Community House is truly a community house, serving families, schools, churches, and community organizations. The meeting room on the north end of the building, which was first used the public library, has since served as the town hall/water department, and currently as the home of the Carroll County Genealogy Society. The main room or ball room has been used by the Town and the County for various events and by local organizations, some of which are listed below.⁴

- Public and private schools for events such as college fairs, organization inductions, proms and class dances, fund raising events such as the Pilgrimage Lunches and Donuts with Santa, and class reunions
- Community-wide music programs and dances
- Community pageants such as the Mr. & Miss Carroll county and the Centennial Pageants
- Carroll County Forestry Association for educational events and awards banquets
- Carroll County Home Demonstration Clubs [now Homemaker Volunteer Clubs] for educational meetings, style shows, arts and crafts shows, and vegetable shows
- Garden Clubs for educational events and fund raisers
- Carroll County 4-H for events and award programs
- Carroll County Master Gardeners for educational events and district meetings.
- Carroll County Development Association for meetings
- Friends of the Carrollton-North Carrollton Library for fundraisers
- Carroll Society for the Preservation of Antiquities for meetings and fundraisers
- Families for birthday and anniversary parties, weddings, family reunions, and repasses
- Businesses such as Farm Bureau Insurance for local and district meetings
- Carroll County Department of Human Services for events such as their Foster Families Christ party
- Pride TKD Martial Arts classes and meets
- Book Signings
- One church holds its monthly service at the Community House

Politics and Government

The Carrollton Community House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Politics and Government for its association with President Roosevelt's Works Project Administration. The Great Depression resulted in vast numbers of unemployed people across the nation. Mississippi was no exception. When Franklin D. Roosevelt took the office of President in 1933, he put a series of programs and projects in place to stabilize the economy and provide jobs and relief to those who were suffering. Together these became known as the New Deal and included new federal agencies such as the Works Progress Administration [WPA], which was renamed the Works Projects Administration in 1939. An emergency relief appropriation of almost 5 billion dollars [over 96 billion dollars at today's value] provided employment to almost one third of those out of work.⁵ Construction projects like the Carrollton Community House were built using WPA funds and local labor. The WPA chose a design that would take advantage of the native timber resources found in Carroll County. Many jobs were created – logging, peeling, moving earth, constructing foundations and assembling – to create the classic and familiar design of a log cabin,

⁴ Town of Carrollton Community House Records, Town Hall, Carrollton, Mississippi.

⁵ Living New Deal website, "Projects by State."

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albeit enlarged. A local contractor, David Felts, was chosen to oversee the project, using local labor.⁶ Today, locals are quick to retell stories of their fathers, grandfathers, and other family members who worked building the Carrollton Community House.⁷

Carroll County has two other New Deal structures: the WPA Teoc Community House [also a log building that no longer exists], and what is known to locals as the Jeanie McBride Building on the campus of Carroll Academy in Carrollton. This structure was built through the National Youth Administration in 1940, according to the stone plaque set in the brick by the front door. This building was used as a class room building for the Carrollton School until the Carrollton and North Carrollton public schools consolidated in 1959. In addition to these projects, New Deal funding helped pay for a waterworks and sewer system in North Carrollton in 1938.⁸

The Living New Deal website (<u>www.livingnewdeal.org</u>) documents at least 260 other projects in Mississippi under a variety of New Deal agencies. Some of the projects resemble the Carrollton Community House. In Holmes County, neat Durant, six Rustic style cabins, park landscape, park manager's residence, lodge, pavilion, and a 525-foot dam forming a 12-acre lake was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (another New Deal agency) between 1935 and 1939. Others use different native materials in their projects. The Grenada Community House is a Tudor style stone-veneered building with false-half-timbered gables, very similar to the community houses in Pontotoc and Winona.⁹

Architecture

The Carrollton Community House has local and statewide significance under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of log construction. Log construction was a common construction style during the settlement of Mississippi, but it became associated with poverty, and was therefore neglected and left behind for more modern construction by the end of the 19th century. With renewed focus on the nation's colonial era during the early 20th century, the style became a symbol of the struggles and virtues of original settlers. As the "Gilded Age" grew, the simple log cabin became more elaborate and massive, using native elements such as log, stone, decorative branches and twigs, notably in the new national parks such as Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn (1903-1904).¹⁰

Cyril M. Harris, in his American Architecture, an Illustrated Encyclopedia defines the Rustic Style:

A vague term most often from about 1900 to 1930, denoting a style in the broadest sense of the word; usually applied to hunting lodges, ranger stations, or log cabins in the mountains or forested areas, found especially in the northeastern United States. Buildings in this category, commonly front gabled, often exhibit a number of the following characteristics: log construction or siding, peeled logs, saddle notch corner joints, rough-cut lumber, a field stone chimney, a moderately to steeply pitched roof covered by hand split wood shingles, a roof over hand with exposed rafters, one or more balconies or porches with flat balusters having decorative cutouts or decorative stick work. Occasionally called Teddy Roosevelt Rustic or Adirondack style rustic.¹¹

Designers working for various depression-era relief agencies such as the WPA and CCC adapted this rustic style for small community buildings in towns across the country. The Rustic style community house developed by the WPA during the Great Depression fulfilled a wide range of design aesthetics. The primary goal of the designers in creating a Rustic structure was to give visitors the illusion that each building was

⁶ Source Materials for Mississippi History, Carroll County, Vol. VIII, Part 2, page 205-209.

⁷ Theresa Vigour, "Preserving a Mississippi Landmark," *The Daily Star*, Hometown Spotlight Series, April 22-28, 2001.

⁸ Richard Cawthon, "Federal public works: identified as of 25 Nov 2012" (unpublished mansuscript)

⁹ Living New Deal website.

¹⁰ Robert Parker Adams, "Historic Structure Report Carrollton Community House," Carrollton, Mississippi, November 27, 2000.

¹¹ Cyril M Harris, American Architecture, an Illustrated Encyclopedia

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constructed by local artisans using traditional building techniques such as wood and stone. While most did indeed use native materials and local craftsmen, the design of each building originated from architects and landscape architects working for these various agencies. Another aspect of this Rustic style was to provide a form of escape from the harsh realities of daily life during the Depression to an idealized past. These simple buildings served as a type of visual link to our nation's past and perhaps renewed the faith of Americans during a time of great national struggle.¹²

¹² Adams, "Historic Structure Report Carrollton Community House," 2000.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Adams, Robert Parker, "Historic Structure Report Carrollton Community House," Carrollton, Mississippi, November 27, 2000.
- Cawthon, Richard, "Federal public works: identified as of 25 Nov 2012" (unpublished mansuscript). Indexes folder, Historic Preservation Division, MDAH.
- Goodman, Thomas E, Site Visit Notes, December 13, 2018, Historic Preservation Consultant for Carrollton, Mississippi.
- Grayson, Walt, "Mississippi Seen," Today in Mississippi, September 2017.
- Harris, Cyril M. American Architecture, an Illustrated Encyclopedia. Norton and Company, New York.
- "Historic Carrollton Mississippi." CarrolltonMS.net Home, accessed December 1, 2018.
- Historic Resources Inventory Files, www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/public/search.aspx, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.
- Living New Deal website, "Projects by State," https://livingnewdeal.org/us, accessed December 1, 2018.
- Shoemaker, Mary McCahon, Architectural Historian, and Halat, Marlene Anne, Research Assistant, Mississippi of Archives and History, *Carrollton Historic District, Carroll County, Mississippi,* Nomination Document 1978, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, Washington, D. C., also www.livingplaces.com/MS/Carroll_County/Carrollton
- Source Materials for Mississippi History, Carroll County, Vol. VIII, Part 2, page 205-209. Copy located in Carrollton Courthouse, Carrollton, Mississippi, and at MDAH, Jackson, Mississippi.
- Strong, Jim, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Carrollton, Mississippi.
- "Southern Railway Company in Mississippi," https://msrailroads.come/SRM.htm
- Town of Carrollton Community House Records, Town Hall, Carrollton, Mississippi.
- "U. S. Route 82," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_82, accessed December 1, 2018.
- Vigour, Theresa, "Preserving a Mississippi Landmark," *The Daily Star*, Hometown Spotlight Series, April 22-28, 2001.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey

Primary location of additional data:

Х	State Historic Preservation Office
	Other State Agency
	Federal Agency
	Local Government
	University
	Other
	Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 015-CAR-0069-ML

10. Geographical Data

The Carrollton Community House is located on Lot 208 as shown by Shaw's Map of the Town of Carrollton and said Lot is located in Section 18, Township 19 North, range 4 East

Acreage of Property 1.4

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 Latitude 33.50429 2	Longitude -89.92061	3 Latitude 33.50362 4	Longitude -89.92011
Latitude 33.50428	Longitude -89.91983	Latitude 33.50327	Longitude -89.92054
5 Latitude 33.50374	Longitude -89.92046		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Carrollton Community House is located on Lot 208 as shown by Shaw's Map of the Town of Carrollton and said Lot is located in Section 18, Township 19 North, range 4 East

The nominated property includes the Works Progress Administration Carrollton Community House and associated site.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)		
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Thomas Goodman, Alderman, architect, Pamela	Lee, Mayor date	
organization Town of Carrollton	telephone662-237-4600	
street & number	email Pamela.lee79@gmail.com	
city or town Carrollton	stateMSzip code38917	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)

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Local Location Map

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- Site Plan
- Floor Plans (As Applicable)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Carrollton Community House		
City or Vicinity:	Carrollton		
County:	Carroll	State:	Mississippi
Photographer:	Pam Lee, Mayor Carrollton and James Bridgforth, MDAH		
Date Photographed:	Dec 10, 2018		

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 16: east elevation, façade view to W Photo 2 of 16: east elevation, facade view to W Photo 3 of 16: north elevation, elevation view to S Photo 4 of 16: south elevation, elevation view to N Photo 5 of 16: east elevation, facade view to W Photo 6 of 16: east elevation, front door view to W Photo 7 of 16: northeast elevation, view form E Photo 8 of 16: east elevation, side door, view to W Photo 9 of 16: west elevation, view to E Photo 10 of 16: interior, interior front door view to E Photo 11 of 16: interior, ball room view to S Photo 12 of 16: interior, fireplace in ballroom view to S Photo 13 of 16: interior, rafters in ball room view to S Photo 14 of 16: interior, kitchen Photo 15 of 16: interior, meeting room Photo 16 of 16: interior, meeting room

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.































